CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a storage drive for verifying a condition of said storage drive's media, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving within said storage drive a command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media;

in response to a receipt of said command, attempting, by said storage drive, to read each one of a plurality of logical block addresses included in said storage drive; and

verifying said condition of said media by determining, by said storage drive, ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are not in a readable condition.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

reassigning each one of said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are not in a readable condition to a new logical block address.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining, by said storage drive, ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable;

determining whether nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned;

in response to a determination that nonreadable logical block addresses are not to be reassigned, leaving said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable unaltered without reassigning said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable; and

in response to a determination that nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned, reassigning said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned by checking the status of a parameter, said parameter indicating whether nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving within said storage drive a single command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving within said storage drive said command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media from a host computer system;

in response to a receipt of command by said storage drive, said storage drive disconnecting itself from host; and

verifying, by said storage drive, said condition of said media while said storage drive is disconnected from said host.

7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

said storage drive disconnecting itself from host by said storage drive becoming offline.

8. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

in response to a completion of said verification, said storage device reconnecting itself to said host.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

coupling said storage drive to a host utilizing a SCSI bus;

receiving within said storage drive said command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media utilizing said SCSI bus; and

said command being a SCSI command.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining, by said storage drive, ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that require error recovery procedures; and

reassigning said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that require error recovery procedures.

11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

during said verification, maintaining a list of said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are not in a readable condition.

12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

verifying said condition of said media without altering data stored on said storage drive.

13. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

verifying said condition of said media without altering customer data stored on said storage drive.

14. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

said storage drive being coupled to a host computer system;

querying said storage drive by said host computer system during said verification; and

transmitting a response to said query from said storage device to said host computer system during said verification.

15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

querying said storage drive by said host computer system during said verification, said query requesting a completion status; and

transmitting a percentage completion from said storage device to said host computer system during said verification.

16. The method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

querying said storage drive by said host computer system during said verification, said query requesting a list of reassigned logical block addresses; and

transmitting said list from said storage device to said host computer system during said verification.

17. A data processing system including a storage drive for verifying a condition of said storage drive's media, said system comprising:

a command received within said storage device to verify said condition of said storage drive's media;

in response to a receipt of said command, said storage drive attempting to read each one of a plurality of logical block addresses included in said storage drive; and

said storage drive verifying said condition of said media by determining ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are not in a readable condition.

18. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

each one of said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses being reassigned that are not in a readable condition to a new logical block address.

19. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

said storage drive determining ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable;

said storage drive determining whether nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned;

in response to a determination that nonreadable logical block addresses are not to be reassigned, said storage drive leaving said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable unaltered without reassigning said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable; and

in response to a determination that nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned, said storage drive reassigning said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable.

20. The system according to claim 19, further comprising:

a parameter for determining whether nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned by checking the status of said parameter, said parameter indicating whether nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned.

21. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

said storage drive receiving a single command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media.

22. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

said storage drive receiving said command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media from a host computer system;

in response to a receipt of command by said storage drive, said storage drive disconnecting itself from host; and

said storage drive verifying said condition of said media while said storage drive is disconnected from said host.

23. The system according to claim 22, further comprising:

said storage drive disconnecting itself from host by said storage drive becoming offline.

24. The system according to claim 22, further comprising:

in response to a completion of said verification, said storage device reconnecting itself to said host.

25. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

said storage drive coupled to a host utilizing a SCSI bus;

said storage drive receiving said command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media utilizing said SCSI bus; and

said command being a SCSI command.

26. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

said storage drive determining ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that require error recovery procedures; and

said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that require error recovery procedures being reassigned.

27. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

a list of said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are not in a readable condition being maintained during said verification.

28. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

said condition of said media being verified without altering data stored on said storage drive.

29. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

said condition of said media being verified without altering customer data stored on said storage drive.

30. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

said storage drive coupled to a host computer system;

said host computer system querying said storage drive during said verification; and

said storage device transmitting a response to said query to said host computer system during said verification.

31. The system according to claim 30, further comprising:

said host computer system querying said storage drive during said verification, said query requesting a completion status; and

said storage device transmitting a percentage completion to said host computer system during said verification.

32. The system according to claim 30, further comprising:

said host computer system querying said storage drive during said verification, said query requesting a list of reassigned logical block addresses; and

said storage device transmitting said list to said host computer system during said verification.

33. A computer program product for verifying a condition of said storage drive's media, said product comprising:

instruction means for receiving within said storage drive a command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media;

in response to a receipt of said command, instruction means for attempting, by said storage drive, to read each one of a plurality of logical block addresses included in said storage drive; and

instruction means for verifying said condition of said media by determining, by said storage drive, ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are not in a readable condition.

34. The product according to claim 33, further comprising:

instruction means for reassigning each one of said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are not in a readable condition to a new logical block address.

35. The product according to claim 33, further comprising:

instruction means for determining, by said storage drive, ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable;

instruction means for determining whether nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned;

in response to a determination that nonreadable logical block addresses are not to be reassigned, instruction means for leaving said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable unaltered without reassigning said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable; and

in response to a determination that nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned, instruction means for reassigning said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are nonreadable.

36. The product according to claim 35, further comprising:

instruction means for determining whether nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned by checking the status of a parameter, said parameter indicating whether nonreadable logical block addresses are to be reassigned.

37. The product according to claim 33, further comprising:

instruction means for receiving within said storage drive a single command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media.

38. The product according to claim 33, further comprising:

instruction means for receiving within said storage drive said command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media from a host computer system;

in response to a receipt of command by said storage drive, instruction means for disconnecting, by said storage drive, itself from host; and

instruction means for verifying, by said storage drive, said condition of said media while said storage drive is disconnected from said host.

39. The product according to claim 38, further comprising:

instruction means for disconnecting, by said storage drive, itself from host by said storage drive becoming offline.

40. The product according to claim 38, further comprising:

in response to a completion of said verification, instruction means for reconnecting, by said storage device, itself to said host.

41. The product according to claim 33, further comprising:

coupling said storage drive to a host utilizing a SCSI bus;

instruction means for receiving within said storage drive said command to verify said condition of said storage drive's media utilizing said SCSI bus; and

said command being a SCSI command.

42. The product according to claim 33, further comprising:

instruction means for determining, by said storage drive, ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that require error recovery procedures; and

instruction means for reassigning said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that require error recovery procedures.

43. The product according to claim 33, further comprising:

during said verification, instruction means for maintaining a list of said ones of said plurality of logical block addresses that are not in a readable condition.

44. The product according to claim 33, further comprising:

instruction means for verifying said condition of said media without altering data stored on said storage drive.

45. The product according to claim 33, further comprising:

instruction means for verifying said condition of said media without altering customer data stored on said storage drive.

46. The product according to claim 33, further comprising:

said storage drive being coupled to a host computer system;

instruction means for querying said storage drive by said host computer system during said verification; and

instruction means for transmitting a response to said query from said storage device to said host computer system during said verification.

47. The product according to claim 46, further comprising:

instruction means for querying said storage drive by said host computer system during said verification, said query requesting a completion status; and

instruction means for transmitting a percentage completion from said storage device to said host computer system during said verification.

48. The product according to claim 46, further comprising:

instruction means for querying said storage drive by said host computer system during said verification, said

query requesting a list of reassigned logical block addresses; and

instruction means for transmitting said list from said storage device to said host computer system during said verification.